

**St. Rita Parent Comments**  
**Parent Technology Survey April 2012**

- St. Rita needs to realize that the younger students need more innovative technology. You are losing a wonderful opportunity for engagement with our tech savvy children. Most initiatives at St. Rita seem to benefit the 5th-8th grade students. Don't forget the Kinder-4th graders. 4th graders can't even bring in their e-readers per St. Rita policy. My child spent her entire 3rd grade year practicing typing in technology class which is a complete misuse of technology resources. Why can't technology be used IN the classroom instead of only with Mrs. Kennedy?
- While the use of iPads and nooks are convenient and can be helpful, I don't think there is a way to ensure that each child will be focused on the lesson. Kids today are technically savvy, and know how to quickly get in and out of different apps. Even nooks and kindles can have games downloaded on them.
- Cumulatively, I had had a child at St. Rita for the past 18 years. With that in mind, let me say that Michael Davies has done an outstanding job in the time I have known him. He is effective in his communication, quick to respond to issues and a true asset.
- I think the technology teacher's curriculum and approach for children K-4 is very mediocre. Her communication skills are virtually zero despite how I reach out to her. I do not like that she is teaching from internet sites for typing -- with hundreds of ads --- instead of a known software. I find it infuriating that she can fail children on tests but not communicate with the children or the parents productively via email or voicemail. The technology program should have a set curriculum for each grade. It should be defined and measured appropriately. It should be communicated to the parents.
- At the elementary and middle school level, I still believe in teachers as the primary educator. I am afraid that technology has become too much for our students and they are falling behind on interpersonal skills. Technology to enhance the classroom experience is necessary. Technology as the educational experience lends itself to a whole new set of problems.
- All in all a great job - but not quite keeping up with the pace of technology - at min the junior high kids should be working on I pads - many already have them for gaming and with the next gen web programming that started in jan educational apps are Exploding
- The school should just work to improve their technology for the years to come. They should strongly consider getting the iPad for each student as well as using other forms of tablets or smart notebooks.

## **Parent Technology Survey Comments April 2012**

- If there is an option to reduce the student/teacher ratio (i.e., hire more teachers), then I would support funding that before funding technology upgrades. While technology is a necessary part of society, and children should know how to type, use a computer, and perform computer research, the hardware is constantly evolving. Because computer hardware and systems become obsolete so quickly, investing in more than just basic computers is probably not advisable as the upgrades will soon be outdated. Again, put the funding to hiring more teachers.
- Our two oldest children ages 7 & 4 both have their own PC desktop computers and iPads so they will be prepared for this level of instruction. I would greatly welcome having St. Rita pushing to be a leader in cutting edge education.
- We need to address how technology can aid in the current class instruction. How will it help the students be better prepared, what items are needed. etc.
- It's a great school. We are very pleased with your education and safety. I don't think K-2nd should rely heavily on computer/web access for education.
- We have to incorporate some sort of device (Ipad\laptop\etc) into their daily lesson and homework routine. Even if it is just voluntary, it will catch on if it is engaging and a true tool. Make it optional to do assignments online or on a computer. Also, I see the amount of books carried back and forth each day. Why can't we start with digital copies of the books? Thanks for listening.....
- I think the technology should be one of several tools available to students and teachers to help learning and teaching. The paramount goal should be age appropriate life skills and preparation for high school.
- Tools currently used are too broad and generic and under publicized. Ie renweb is very poorly by school admin - info is usually inaccurate. Renweb is good when the teacher uses it. The library website is great but no one knows about it. Would really like access to ebooks via library.
- To be more green and technologically forward, more information should be online. Students should be able to submit homework electronically either by email or onto a secure server for the teacher to review. I understand some assignments are reviewed in class but there are many assignments in middle school which are just turned in.
- I think that middle school students should be allowed to carry cell phones to school and keep them off in their backpacks. I also think that ipads or laptops would be good tools for them to use to take notes, do research etc. Also, online books would be the best rather than investing in paper books.

## Parent Technology Survey Comments April 2012

- I think use of mobile devices is unnecessary for K-8. Most middle schoolers spend plenty of time on such devices at home. We need to teach our younger ones how to learn without the help of devices when they are young. Then, as they progress through school, technology can be introduced as an aide to education. My younger children have a harder time with spelling, grammar, math, etc because the computer does the spell check, etc. for them. I also worry about their loss of interpersonal communication when they rely so heavily on twitter, facebook, etc.
- There is too much limitation on what can be used at schools. St Rita is way behind even what public school teachers and students have access to from a technological basis. Just opening up more websites from the filter could improve this.
- I hope there is more emphasis on STEM ( Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics ) .
- Technology is unavoidable in this day & age. I think a school does have some responsibility to equip children with technology as a means to learn but equally important to teach them safety precautions, ergonomics, and computer etiquette.
- The more personal interaction the better. I do not have TV or video games in the house and [REDACTED]'s interaction with children and adults is self-evident. Any issues he has relates more to a split household. If he were exposed to mobile phone routinely I would do all I could to pull him from school. Mobile phones are VERY damaging to a Child's brain and should be cautioned against. If you are not aware of this you should be. The bigger question to me is are you providing filtered water for the children and how much are they encouraged to drink. [REDACTED]'s health in this regard is suffering and a much bigger concern than changing or improving digital influence or surroundings. Is this topic being discussed?
- I think the kids first need to know the basics without technology. Yes, we need technology but we cannot rely on it solely. This was difficult to fill out only having a 1st grader, we encourage play without electronics. As my child is older I am sure my opinions & knowledge will change.
- Its good idea to apply technology in the school environment because it aids research and saves time. However, our children should be exposed to safe technology/ internet. Because they're evil strangers who can misuse the internet Online. I do appreciate technology initiative and implementation by St. Rita School.
- Technology is changing so fast that something we use today will likely be outdated in twenty-four (24) months.
- Technology wise, St. Rita is already outstanding. Keep up the good work.

## Parent Technology Survey Comments April 2012

- I'm in favor of students using mobile devices for school purposes (e.g., smartphones, tablets, \*maybe\* a laptop). It would be a good move for the school to provide such equipment to families at a reasonable price -- not as an opportunity to reap a large profit. Buying in bulk could reduce the price of such equipment (tablets and laptops, but not so much for smartphones), lower than what we might expect to pay at retail stores. If there was some way to offer digital textbooks (not necessarily online, but using an ereader such as iPad or Nook) as an alternative to textbooks, it would help the students by not having to physically lug around a heavy load in addition to making fewer stops to their locker between classes. I don't know if the offerings of books is available to this extent, but my hope is that it's soon.
- My opinion is that often 'technology' can take focus away from the real subject at hand. Our kids are getting tons of computer experience and will continue to do so. Concentrate on building solid math/english skills. My daughter's combined math/english homework takes < 10 mins. Really? Is that the extent the school can challenge her? She's only 1st grade, but I still think the school can ask more of our kids -- they can do it.
- Technology is moving forward faster every day. We need to have our kids educated and have them embrace the good aspects of technology to increase quality of life. However some of the drawbacks like safety concerns, too much screen time, etc. must be addressed and taught as well. The last thing that we should consider is limiting our children's access to quality technology since it's not only here to stay but is the ever increasing way the world works. Teaching concepts along the lines of utilizing technology to free up my time thus enabling more quality with friends and family are perhaps a healthy consideration.
- probably could use a little more emphasis on technology in middle school--in lower grades the technology use seems appropriate for age, would prefer to see investment in spanish language program in lower grades than in technology use.
- But in a nutshell.... Use very little technology in the lower grades and advance as the age progresses.
- Keep tech to a minimum. Use the resources that a human possesses to make the impact on our children.
- Again, the number one reason a person does well in life is because of their people skills, not their computer skills. And isn't that what we in a christian environment want for our children. To give them a sense of their place in God's community and to teach them to help their fellow man?

## Parent Technology Survey Comments April 2012

- With our child being in kindergarten I feel she has not been exposed to all the technology available at St. Ritas. In her future years I feel a good foundation for safe internet use would be appropriate and lead into more advanced use of technology in the latter years.
- I believe that the school curriculum is so outdated. The teaching method is focused on having children be good at tests rather than learn and understand the lessons.
- Subjects are not introduced and taught in a progressive manner. This is quite obvious with Math. Math is all about understanding the concepts and logic with numbers. The best way to teach this is to have children master the basics and do this in progression. It is so confusing for most kids where one day they're taught about one subject and not follow through by teaching them something else not related to the previous day's lesson. It creates a habit of short term memory where they only have to learn and understand the lesson for today - there is no reason for them to remember it the next day since it will be totally about something else.
- Sadly, some teachers do not currently use RenWeb which is probably St. Rita's initial computer based school information management program. If SRS plans to expand into other areas of enhanced technology then the teachers/staff have to support and use the programs as well and on a daily basis. I think it is crazy to spend lots of money in this area and have the tools available but not effectively/accurately/consistently being used (such as RenWeb). The students are the early adapters/adopters because they have grown up with technology. The teachers/staff need to support these changes in curriculum and how students are being taught if St. Rita moves forward in this area.
- Also - programs/software need to be compatible with Macs as well (we are a Mac household). We have multiple experiences with required homework (CD-Rom quizzes, computer class homework, sending homework to teachers, etc.) that we have to find a Windows computer to complete/send because of incompatibility with Mac OS.
- I feel that the fundamentals of learning are important in K-8 grade . The school needs to stay in keeping with the times ..and provide a stimulating and quality education. While joining the workplace is essential in adulthood, knowing how to process and thinking is tantamount to having access to more technology...These are the things that children need when they are still young.
- Although most all SRS children are exposed at a early age to computers etc at home I feel it is not necessary to start in Kinder. Maybe 4 or 6 th as they mature and are responsible

## Parent Technology Survey Comments April 2012

- I do believe there is so much information expected of our children that there is no time to digest and really learn the information. So they take a test and move on to new info without really retaining the info for the long run. There is no focus on teaching life/work skills like oral presentations, debates, team projects, written essays, reports, research papers, book reports. How about class discussions - why can't the kids read at home and discuss the info in class instead of reading thru the book each class. I would like to see the information broken up better between grades so there is more time spent on learning valuable info instead of cursory info taught in every grade about the same topics.
- As a parent of a Kindergartener, I am still trying to learn the available technology being used in the classroom and what they are learning with the computer. I think a little more communication on that would be nice. I think technology is very important for the students now and to be successful in the future. However, there needs to be a balance between spending time staring at computers and other technology, and just the normal interaction between classmates and friends through regular play and social interaction. I would like St. Rita to help produce a well rounded child.
- Since my daughter is only in kindergarten right now, it's difficult to answer some of these questions. However I strongly believe that it's extremely important to incorporate technology into the curriculum and begin teaching children about technology in the early years. Our daughter already uses a laptop and Ipad at home under supervision. I think SRS should continue to increase technology in the classroom as much as possible so the children are well prepared for the future.
- The technology behind computers and devices are outdated every 18 months- we cannot afford to keep up with this. we need to use to technology to cut costs such as by accessing online text books and original sources for news and information
- I strongly encourage an aggressive vision for the future development of the technology program and curriculum at SRS and that the school articulates this vision as part of the capital campaign.
- Here is an idea. St. Rita could adopt a standard online curriculum such as Connections Academy based in Houston and utilize our brilliant teaching staff to be learning coaches and for enrichment purposes.
  - See the link below as an example of an online school. It is free...
  - <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/texas-houston-school/curriculum/elementary/home.aspx>
  - Perhaps all the students could enroll once they reach 3rd grade.